

June 2013 Patriotic Instructors Page

The Gettysburg Peace Light

John W. Bates National Patriotic Instructor

It has been 75 years since the dedication of The Peace Light at Gettysburg, Pa, so presented to the people of The United States by The Commanders of Both The Grand Army of The Republic and The Sons of Confederate Veterans in . Accepting on behalf of The American people was President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was very clear in his acceptance remarks that this New symbol of a reunited Nation was to last for all time as a reminder of Hope, Brotherhood and of course an eternal peace among all our citizens.

Nearly 2000 Civil War Veterans, North and South attended these few days in June and early July of this Historic occasion in 1938. All who attended were present to honor and remember those who not only fought in The Battle of Gettysburg, but also all Civil War Veterans and Battles fought all over the Nation from 1861-1865. They all came to show the nation and the world that our Country was now one and united for all time!

Just before it was formally dedicated, a larger than life American Flag was gently removed by The Commander-in-Chief of The GAR, George N. Lockwood, and The SCV Commander-in-Chief A.G. Harris, assisted by Several Boy Scouts. The Monument itself is 40 feet high made from Alabama Limestone, along with a base of 35 feet wide made from Maine Granite. On one side is engraved "An Enduring Light to Guide us in unity and Fellowship". On the other side it reads Lincoln's words that tell us "With Firmness in the right as God gives us to see the Right". Perhaps its most lasting meaning are the words "Peace Eternal in a Nation United".

These words evoke the Lasting Memory and Importance of not only the sacrifices made at Gettysburg, but also the true result of The entire Civil War! As the aged Veterans of The Great conflict, both North and South assembled here for the last time in 1938, they all knew the meaning and results of the conflict were inscribed not only in American History, but also in The American Memory.

Let us all remember these Great Men, and what they did for all of us. God Bless them and our reunited Country, now and for all coming time.